

Please substitute the following claim:

Claim 9 (twice amended):

A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:
depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and
moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member cycles between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone; and
wherein the protocol is carried out in an atmosphere sufficiently humid to reduce or prevent evaporation of the liquid sample volumes.

Please add the following new claims:

51 (new). A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:
depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and
moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member cycles between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone;
wherein said sample transport member is moved along said pathway by reels which frictionally engage the sample transport member.

52 (new). A method for carrying out a chemical or biochemical protocol comprising:
depositing liquid sample volumes into a plurality of sample receiving regions on at least one mobile sample transport member; and

moving the sample transport member along a pathway such that said sample receiving regions move through at least one temperature regulated zone upon which a thermal transfer member acts, wherein said thermal transport member cycles between at least two temperatures while said sample receiving regions are moving through said at least one temperature regulated zone; and

wherein the sample receiving regions are covered by a non-miscible liquid in order to prevent evaporation of the liquid sample volumes.